

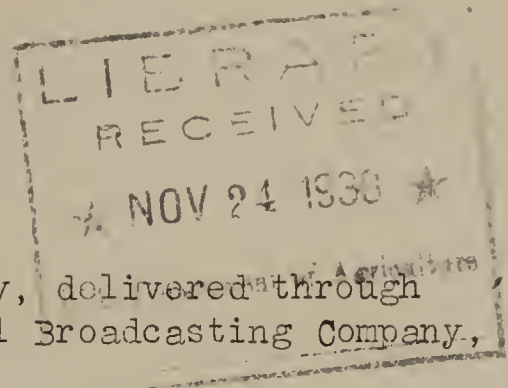
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THE GARDEN CALENDAR



A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 38 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, November 10, 1930.

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How-Do-You-Do Friends: In my garden calendar of October 7, I sounded a warning to fruit growers regarding the protection of young trees from rabbits and field mice, and suggested that anyone who had this problem should get a copy of Farmers' Bulletin 1397 on Mouse Control in Field and Orchard.

I have had several inquiries; one from an Ohio member of the radio audience who says that while poison will kill the mice he is afraid of killing quails, pheasants and all kinds of song birds, and that he thinks the greatest way to get rid of the so called field mice is to protect the skunk and the fox, as their diet is very largely on field mice, grubs, etc. I agree fully with this correspondent regarding the protection of the common enemies of the mice, but the bulletin I mentioned - Farmers' Bulletin No. 1397 gives full directions on how to place the poisons in containers made of small pieces of boards and so fashioned that the mice can, and will, reach the poison without endangering the lives of the birds or anything else for that matter except the mice. It is perfectly safe to use the poison if the work is done in the right manner and the bulletin gives full directions.

My morning's mail brought me several bulletins that I am sure will be of interest to many of you. In the near future we will want to prune and train our grape vines and Farmers' Bulletin No. 471 on grape propagation, pruning and training gives this information in very concise form. The bulletin contains plenty of illustrations to show how the work should be done.

Pruning citrus trees in the southwest, Farmers' Bulletin 1333 will be of special interest to those of you who live in the Gulf Coast region of Texas, it is Farmers' Bulletin 1333.

Strawberries are being grown quite extensively throughout the Gulf Coast region. The methods of cultivation, however, in that section are somewhat different from those followed in the northern and western sections. A reprint has just been issued of Farmers' Bulletin No. 1026, strawberry culture in the south Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions and any of you folks who live in that general section bordering the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico who would like a copy of this bulletin will be supplied if you will drop us a post card or a letter.

The number of different kinds of insects that attack our field and garden crops is very great, in fact, new ones are being brought to light every year and old ones are becoming more widely distributed. Birds, including song birds, are man's greatest friends in this matter of holding insects in check. I believe that if everybody were to become better acquainted with birds and their habits they would be inclined to protect the birds and attract them more than is done

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at present. Farmers' Bulletin No. 630, "Some Common Birds Useful to the Farmer," will give you a lot of very brief but useful information about the various birds that are especially useful for keeping the insect hordes in check. Perhaps no one is so vitally interested in the protection of the birds as is the fruit grower or the gardener, so I believe that you will be wanting a copy of this bulletin and increase your knowledge of our common birds.

On several occasions I have referred to the value of bees to the fruit and vegetable grower and I am pleased to report that a reprint of Farmers' Bulletin No. 447 on bees has just been issued. If you are confronted with the problem of providing bees to pollinate your fruit or if you are keeping them for honey production alone you may find a copy of this bulletin worth reading.

Last Saturday evening my home telephone rang and when I picked up the receiver a lady's voice answered - after telling me her name, said that she had received a letter from her son who is living in a town in Texas and that he wanted her to call me and tell me that he heard the Farm and Home Hour broadcast and that it seemed just like a visit from someone from home. I can assure you that it gave me great pleasure to get this message and especially coming as it did through the young man's mother.

On several occasions I have had letters or calls from people who have heard the Farm and Home Hour broadcasts and I can assure you that these little messages mean a great deal to those of us who are trying to give the Farm and Home Hour audience, not only information, but an inspiration to better living and greater success in their various undertakings. We appreciate the letters, especially the constructive letters like the one I mentioned from the Ohio fruit grower. We have no way of knowing who we are reaching with these broadcasts unless you write us sending a question or commenting upon what has been said. We appreciate the responses.